



EQUALITY STATEMENT



Introduction

Under the Equality Act 2010 schools should have an Accessibility Plan. The Equality Act 2010 replaced all existing equality legislation, including the Disability Discrimination Act. The effect of the law is the same as in the past, meaning that “schools cannot unlawfully discriminate against pupils because of sex, race, disability, religion or belief and sexual orientation”. According to the Equality Act 2010 a person has a disability if:

- (a) He or she has a physical or mental impairment, and
- (b) The impairment has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on his or her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

The Accessibility Plan is listed as a statutory document of the Department for Education’s guidance on statutory policies for schools. The Plan must be reviewed every three years and approved by the Governing Body. The review process can be delegated to a committee of the Governing Body, an individual or the Head.

Our Lady & St Edward Catholic Primary School is committed to providing an environment that enables full curriculum access that values and includes all pupils, staff, parents and visitors regardless of their education, physical, sensory, social, spiritual, emotional and cultural needs. They are committed to taking positive action in the spirit of the Equality Act 2010 with regard to disability and to developing a culture of inclusion, support and awareness within the school.

Our Lady & St Edward Catholic Primary School has adopted this accessibility plan in line with the school’s special educational needs policy with the aim to ensure that their school is socially and academically inclusive, that all pupils have access to a full curriculum, and that all pupils are appropriately challenged. This plan is created in response to the recommendations made in our school’s last access audit and should be read in conjunction with the Access Audit. The School’s special educational needs policy outlines the provision that the school has in place to support pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), and the school’s publication of equality information and objectives explains how we ensure equal opportunities for all our students. Increased access to the curriculum, physical access to the school, and access to information are particular to students with SEND, and this accessibility plan provides an outline of how the school will manage this part of the SEND provision.

Under the remit of the Equality Act 2010, provision should be made for all pupils with disabilities and ensure that they are not discriminated against. The need for specialist support and educational provision should be clearly identified and used effectively, to the full benefit of the pupil’s development. Under SEND all schools have a duty to audit access to buildings and facilities and develop an Accessibility strategy and plan covering a 3 year period. Through implementation of the Accessibility Plan schools should be aiming to:

- Increase the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the school curriculum
- Improve the physical environment of the school increasing the extent to which disabled pupils can take advantage of the education and associated services provided by the school
- Improve the delivery to disabled pupils of information which is provided to pupils who are not disabled.



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Pupils with SEND will be given access to the curriculum supported by the school's specialist SEND provision and in line with the wishes of their parents and the needs of the individual.

The school curriculum is regularly reviewed by the Head Teacher to ensure that it is accessible to pupils of all levels and abilities, and supports the learning and progress of all pupils as individuals. This includes learning outside the classroom.

It is the aim of the School to ensure that all resources and SEND provisions are being used effectively and efficiently within the school setting in order to support the taught curriculum and enable pupils to reach their full potential. The school does this by:

- keeping staff fully informed of the special educational needs of any pupils in their charge including sharing progress reports, medical reports and teacher feedback
- providing regular training and learning opportunities for staff in all departments on the subject of SEND and SEND teaching; school staff should be up to date with teaching methods that will aid the progress of all pupils including those with SEND
- making use of all class facilities and space
- using in-class provisions and support effectively to ensure that the curriculum is differentiated where necessary
- making sure that individual or group tuition is available where it is felt that pupils would benefit from this provision
- any decision to provide group teaching outside the classroom will involve the SENCO in providing a rationale and focus on flexible teaching. Parents will be made aware of any circumstances in which changes have been made
- setting appropriate individual targets that motivate pupils to do their best, and celebrating achievements at all levels
- listening to pupils' views and taking them into account in all aspects of school life.

2. Sensory and physical needs

The school has some of the following adaptations in place to meet sensory and physical needs and those not yet present are being planned for the future:

- appropriate seating, acoustic conditioning and lighting
- adaptations to the physical environment of the school
- adaptations to school policies and procedures
- access to alternative or augmented forms of communication
- provision of tactile and kinaesthetic materials
- access to low vision aids
- access to specialist aids, equipment or furniture
- regular and frequent access to specialist support

3. Reasonable adjustments

The School will also make reasonable adjustments for individual students who need extra provision than that which is already in place to make sure that all students are involved in every aspect of school life, and that all barriers to learning are removed. These may fall under the following headings:



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The building and grounds:

- audio-visual fire alarms
- assistance with guiding

Teaching and learning:

- a piece of equipment
- extra staff assistance
- an electronic or manual note-taking service
- readers for pupils with visual impairments

Methods of communication:

- a piece of equipment
- the provision of a sign language interpreter, lip-speaker or deaf-blind communicator
- induction loop or infrared broadcast system
- videophones
- readers for pupils with visual impairments.
- This accessibility plan will be evaluated every 3 years to monitor its effectiveness and ensure that it covers all areas of accessibility that are needed in the school

Signed by

Head Teacher: *Rachel Byrne*

Date: Feb 2024

SENCo: *Joseph Whittle*

Date: September 2024

Governor: *Pauline Baptist*

Date: Feb 2024



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Priority Ratings

Priority A:

Where there are potential health and safety risks or where failure to implement changes would be highly likely to attract legal implications. Immediate action is recommended to put changes into effect.

Priority B:

Where action is recommended within the short term to alleviate an access problem or make improvements that will have a considerable impact.

Priority C:

Where action is recommended within 12 - 24 months to improve access.

Priority D:

Where the recommendation involves excessive costs or should be implemented as part of a long-term plan.

KEYS FOR COSTS

Budget costs have been included in the form of bands.

N - None **M** - Minimal **OG** - Ongoing Maintenance **ST** - Structural Change



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Accessibility Plan for Our Lady & St Edward Catholic Primary School

Item	Areas	Recommendation	Priority A, B, C	Keys for costs	Target date	Date Achieved
1	Safeguarding	If not already done, provide staff with Part One of the statutory guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education', DfE	A	N	Annually	2023
2	Approach to School	Remind parents via newsletters to park safely at drop off and collection times	A	N	OG	OG
3		Ensure gate handles contrast with gates.	B	M	2023	2023
4	Car Park	Mark out safe walkways in the car parking areas for pedestrians.	B	M	2023	2023
5		Check the lines of the disabled bay when weather permits.	B	M	2023	2023
6		Erect a sign in front of your disabled car parking bay and at the entrance to your car park to show the location of the accessible parking.	B	M	2023	
7	External Ramps and Steps	Ensure that the ramp and steps are kept clear of grit and gravel. Mark tape at the start and end of every ramp and handrail. Install additional handrails on steps to playground.	B	M	2023	2023
8	Main Entrance Door	Fit sign next to intercom.	B	M	2023	2023
9		Check the door closures regularly and alter accordingly.	A	N	OG	OG
10	Reception Area	Fit a hinged shelf for wheelchair users.	A	M	2024	
11		Provide a high-back chair with arms	B	M	2024	
12		Fit an induction loop in the reception area	B	M	2024	



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13	Wayfinding and Signage	Review internal signage and add more directional signs. Change all signage in upper case to lower case. Incorporate tactile signage in all your future signs.	B	M	2023	2023
14	Cloakrooms	Ensure that the floors are kept free from trip hazards e.g. bags shoes etc.	A	N	OG	OG
15	Classroom and Facilities	Ensure that at least one pc is accessible to a wheelchair user and provide a high-backed chair with arms in the Library.	A	M	OG	OG
16	Hall	Hall - Consider installing Hearing enhancement system.	B	M		
17	Internal Stairs and Ramps	Highlight the start and end of each staircase and handrails with marking tape or different coloured carpet tiles.	A	M	2023	2023
		Mark nosings on front of each step not the sides.	A	M	2023	2023
19	Internal Doors	Mark propped open doors with well contrasting markings along their narrow edges. Label glass doors with posters or decorative designs.	A	N	OG	OG
20		Ensure no fire doors are propped open under any circumstances.	A	N	OG	OG
21		Make frequent checks on all door closures to reduce noise and adjust when necessary.	A	N	OG	OG
22		Number or sign the classroom doors.	A	M	2024	
23	Dining Room	Ensure that at least one table is accessible by a wheelchair user and supply a high-backed chair with arms.	A	M	2023	2023
24	Accessible Toilets	Remove the storage items, lower the mirror and fit coat hooks. Ensure that the alarm cord is not tied up.	A	M	2023	2023
25		Arrange disability awareness and etiquette training and some form of basic manual handling training for appointed members of staff.	B	M	2023	2023



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26		Provide signage showing the location of the accessible toilet.	B	M	2023	2023
27	Gender Identity	Upon presentation, name and gender-marker (pronoun) change, including on documents, school record. Reissue any award or other certificates	A	N	OG	OG
28		Review toilet and changing facilities: Disclosures: To whom, by whom, how and when? Press Intrusion: Prepare generic equality statement to be issued if necessary. Alert office staff who respond to telephone calls	A	N	OG	OG
29		Arrange training for staff	A	N	OG	OG
30		Time out: Children (especially during puberty) may need clinic appointments	A	N	OG	OG
31	Means of Escape	An individual should be delegated to ensure all escape routes are free from obstructions.	A	N	OG	OG
32		Continue to train staff to assist in evacuation procedures especially in helping the mobility impaired.	A	M	OG	OG
33		Train staff to assist in evacuation procedures.	A	M	OG	OG
34		Ensure fire extinguishers are wall mounted, clearly signed and checked annually.	A	N	OG	OG
35		Provide wheelchair handling training to teachers and caretakers.	A	M	OG	OG
36	Outdoor Spaces	Provide picnic table suitable for wheelchair user.	B	M		



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37	Outdoor Spaces	Plan to provide accessible parking in close proximity to the sports fields on an ad hoc basis. You will need to ensure that parents needs are ascertained prior to such an event and information in relation to visitors' special needs should be sought at the time invitations to Sports Days and similar events are made.	C	M	OG	OG
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SUMMARY

The main priorities in the school's plan

Increasing the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the school curriculum

Training for teachers and support staff and adapting the curriculum
 All out of School activities are planned and risk assessed to ensure participation for all
 Training for Awareness
 Raising of Disability issues
 Information to know your students' needs

Improving the physical environment of the school to increase the extent to which disabled pupils can take advantage of education and associated services:

The key objective is to ensure that school premises are adapted so that disabled pupils are not prevented from attending the school of their choice because the premises are inaccessible and/or cannot meet the needs of the pupils.
 Making sure clear procedures are implemented to ensure that disabled pupils who are starting school have their needs assessed and that necessary adaptations at the school of their choice are carried out in time for the start of term.

Improving the delivery to disabled pupils of information that is provided in writing for pupils who are not disabled:

Availability of written material in alternative formats as required
 Raise the awareness of adults working at or for the School on good communications
 If required arrange for visual impaired students to be able to access documentation
 Review all policies to ensure that they do not discriminate the needs of staff, students or visitors



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